



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5726

LCO No. 2953

02953_____APP

Referred to Committee on Appropriations

Introduced by:
(APP)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMENCING DATE OF BENEFIT
PAYMENTS, OPTIONS OF CERTAIN SURVIVING SPOUSES AND
HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS UNDER THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT
SYSTEM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 10-183g of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2006*):

4 (g) A member's complete formal application for retirement, if sent
5 by mail, shall be deemed to have been filed with the board on the date
6 such application is postmarked. No benefit computed under
7 subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section and under subsections
8 (a) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-183aa shall become effective until the
9 end of the calendar month of the filing by the member with the board
10 of a complete formal application for retirement. Such benefit shall
11 accrue from the first day of the month following such calendar month
12 and payment of such benefit in equal monthly installments shall
13 commence on the last day of the month in which such benefit begins to
14 accrue. The initial payment of such benefit may be made not later than

15 three months following the effective date of retirement, provided such
16 payment shall be retroactive to such effective date. Upon a finding that
17 extenuating circumstances relating to the health of a member caused a
18 delay in the filing of the member's complete formal application, and
19 such application is filed on or after July 1, 1986, the board may deem
20 such application to have been filed up to three months earlier than the
21 actual date of the filing. Upon a finding that extenuating circumstances
22 related to the health of a member caused a delay in the filing of an
23 election pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-183aa, and such
24 election is filed on or after July 1, 1986, the board may deem such
25 election to have been filed as of the date such member's benefits would
26 otherwise have been converted to a normal retirement allowance,
27 provided such member's disability allowance became effective on or
28 before November 1, 1976, and such member attained the age of sixty
29 on or after August 1, 1984.

30 Sec. 2. Section 10-183h of the general statutes is amended by adding
31 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

32 (NEW) (g) If a member who has filed an application for retirement
33 dies prior to the effective date of retirement, such member's spouse, if
34 such spouse is designated on such application as the sole beneficiary,
35 may elect to receive either (1) the preretirement death benefits as set
36 forth in this section, or (2) the benefit payment option selected by the
37 deceased member on such retirement application.

38 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-183t of the 2006 supplement to
39 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
40 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

41 (a) The retirement board shall offer one or more health benefit plans
42 to: Any member receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance
43 from the system; the spouse or surviving spouse of such member, and
44 a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse or
45 surviving spouse, provided such member, spouse, surviving spouse,
46 or disabled dependent is participating in Medicare Part A hospital

47 insurance and Medicare Part B medical insurance. The board may offer
 48 one or more basic plans, the cost of which to any such member,
 49 spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall be one-third of
 50 the basic plan's premium equivalent, and one or more optional plans,
 51 provided such member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled
 52 dependent shall pay one-third of the basic plan's premium equivalent
 53 plus the difference in cost between any such basic plans and any such
 54 optional plans. The board shall designate those plans which are basic
 55 and those plans which are optional for the purpose of determining
 56 such cost and the amount to be charged or withheld from benefit
 57 payments for such plans. The surviving spouse of a member, or a
 58 disabled dependent of a member if there is no surviving spouse, shall
 59 not be ineligible for participation in any such plan solely because such
 60 surviving spouse or disabled dependent is not receiving benefits from
 61 the system. With respect to any person participating in any such plan,
 62 the state shall appropriate to the board one-third of the cost of such
 63 basic plan or plans, or one-third of the cost of the rate in effect during
 64 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, whichever is greater.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-183g(g)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-183h
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-183t(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To allow the Teachers' Retirement Board additional time to calculate a retired member's benefit and make payment of such benefit for the first time; to allow the surviving spouse of a member who (1) designated such spouse as the sole beneficiary on the application for retirement filed by such member, and (2) dies after filing such application but before the effective date of such application, to elect either preretirement death benefits or the benefit option selected by the deceased member on such application; and to require any member receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance from the system, the spouse or surviving spouse of such member, and a disabled

dependent of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse, to participate in Medicare Part B medical insurance.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]